

From: Daniel Wahl
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think the Department of Justice ought to be morally condemned for even charging Microsoft with the alleged crime of coercing its very satisfied customers (of which I am one out of many).

I am writing this using my hotmail account, a free service given to everyone by Microsoft. I am on the internet via Explorer, thanks to Microsoft. Hell, I can even navigate myself around on the computer thanks to this company. Because of this (and more) are you actually asking me whether I think the punishment for Microsoft is too soft? Hell no it's not too soft! They shouldn't be punished at all. And, despite mumbling that the company's prosecution was a "victory for consumers everywhere" Janet Reno knew this. So does Ashcroft.

What they both know, but fail to admit, is that Microsoft has gained its market dominance, not by using fraud or force, but by consistently offering better (more popular) services and products for a cheaper price than their competitors. Is it for their achievements that this company has been damned?

If the new Department of _Justice_ wants to prove it has a right to actually bear that name, it should "settle" with Microsoft by first apologizing, then paying restitution for any money that the firm has lost as a result of this immoral trial.

--Daniel Wahl, Kannapolis, NC

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